

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 are now pending in the application. Claims 2-3 and 5-11 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saveliev et al. (5,819,936) in view of Arai et al. (5,624,033) and Hara (5,139,165).

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that the product container has a first latching member and that the product is wrapped in a heat sealed flexible aluminized thermoplastic barrier. The product container is formed of a high density polyethylene. A finger release structurally associated with the recloseable lid disengages the first and second latching members in response to upward pressure on the finger release. A carrying strap is removably attached to the exterior portion of the product container. The product container is a convenient carrying case which can trap moisture that could damage unexposed film, but the flexible barrier prevents moisture penetration. After film exposure, moisture is not as critical to the film so that exposed film can be carried unwrapped in the case for a period of time. Claim 1 is directed to the carrying case and product and is believed to be patentable.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for doubly reciting the finger release. Accordingly, double inclusion of the finger release has been corrected.

Claim 4 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saveliev et al. (5,819,936) in view of Arai et al. (5,624,033) and Hara (5,139,165), as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Rapchak (5,667,094), Shibazaki et al. (5,370,227), Cyr (5,775,496) and Sorci (4,955,502).

Claim 4 has been amended to more particularly point out that the product container has an interior compartment for containing and exposing at least one unit of product therein that is wrapped and heat sealed in a flexible aluminized thermoplastic barrier material to prevent high humidity and moisture penetration. The product container has a notch formed in a top edge exterior portion of the product container. A recloseable hingedly attached to the product container has a protruding lip configured for engaging the notch. The protruding


lip further includes a finger latch release for disengaging the protruding lip from the notch in response to upward pressure on the finger latch release. A flexible product partition is removably arranged in the interior compartment for separating individual product. A carrying strap removably attached to an exterior portion of the product container. Claim 4 is directed to the carrying case and product and is believed to be patentable.

Applicants take the position that the combination of references cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest applicants' invention as now claimed. Applicants' inventive concept provides for a case for storing and carrying a product wrapped in a moisture and humidity barrier exposed in a product container. The carrying case includes a hingedly attached recloseable lid, a finger release, a carrying strap and a flexible removable product partition. This combination of features is novel and unobvious in the art, and particularly provides the user of photographic film a product to conveniently carry film. It also provides a way to quickly distinguish unused photosensitive film product and used photosensitive film product in the same carrying case.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, claims 1 and 4 are believed to be patentable and the application is now deemed in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,390

Peyton C. Watkins/djw
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2728
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.